

REMARKS:

The preceding claim amendments are submitted prior to the upcoming August 18, 2009, Appeal Brief due date for the present application in order to narrow the issues for appeal and to place the claims in better condition for appeal. Claims 1-22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-23 are pending. Applicant requests that the claim amendments be entered.

Applicant asserts that claims 1-13 and 23 now fall within the statutory subject matter of 35 U.S.C. §101, and thus the claims are patent eligible. Further, Applicant asserts that the preceding amendments, made according to 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b)(2), are timely filed, narrow the issues for appeal and place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Upon the Examiner's decision to either enter or not enter the preceding amendment, Applicant respectfully requests prompt notification of that decision so that Applicant's Appeal Brief, due August 18, 2009, may properly reflect the pending subject matter and address the pending rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Brian A. Tollefson/
Brian A. Tollefson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,338
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK
1425 K. Street, Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 783-6040